Vol. VI. Numb. 59

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Observator's *dangerous State of Health, and barbarous Treatment. Reflexions on the New Alliance by the Pope,* &c. *and his Treatment of the Emperor and King* Charles *the III. Of the Affairs of* Spain.

From **Saturday**, September 20. to **Wednesday**, September 24. 1707.

Obs. WELL, *Country-man*, I see you have a Bundle of Papers there: What News is there in them?

Country-m. More than's good, Master: My Heart's sunk into my Hose; my Pulse beats almost as low as yours does.

Obs. What's the Matter, *Roger*? Your Case is not so bad as mine, I hope? You are at Liberty to go where you will; I am a Prisoner for a small Debt that I am not able to pay, and have a barbarous hard-hearted *Jacobite* to deal with, who has purchas'd that Debt, and would listen to no Terms, tho' I afford him all that I could pay, which was better than 15 *s.* *per* Pound: He would not hear of it. My Ruin is the Design of the Faction; and now they have accomplish'd it. They, and others, perhaps as bad as themselves, tho' they profess better Things, sent Ruffians to murder me. Ever since I receiv'd their Blows upon my Head, I have been languishing, and my Head has been imposthumated. Add to all this, *Roger*, an empty Purse, a sick Heart, a numerous Family, and being neglected by my Friends that I have serv'd; and you need not wonder that my Pulse beats low.

Country-m. Master, I am sensible that my Case is not quite so bad as yours, but I have my own Difficulties; a bad Trade, great Rent, heavy Taxes, and a large Family; and I have lost by you too, Master, but that I don't value; it was in my Country's Service: And it touches me to the Quick, as well as it does you, Master, when Things don't go right for the Common Cause.

Obs. I know that, honest *Roger*; but you and I must both consider, that God governs the World; and if he did not, it would be but sorrily govern'd by the best of those who call themselves his Vicegerents. Many Times they have Views that are neither just nor reasonable, but his Ends are all holy and just, and that quiets me, *Roger*. What God does, is always well done, tho' our corrupt Natures will not let us think so, but make us murmur, and repine against his Providence; whereas we should look inward, and examine our own Conduct, to find out the Causes of his Anger, and repent, and then we should be in the Way of meeting with Blessings.

Country-m. Master, I own all that; but we Country-men are not always good Divines: And, Master, I cannot restrain my Passion, when I see how other Volks play the Rogue with us *English*-men.

Obs. What's the Matter now, *Roger*? What new Roguery have you met with?

Country-m. Roguery enough, Master. We in *England* have upheld an Alliance almost 20 Years, and I have pay'd my Share towards it; I don't know how many Loads of Wheat, and how many Cows and Hogs it has cost me, Master; and now the Great He-Whore is making a New Alliance to spoil our old one. His Hellishness, the Duke of *Tuscany*, and the *Venetians*, and I don't know how many more, are levying Men; and the Priests in *Naples* had made a Plot to massacre all the *Imperialists*. Is not this Roguery, Master?

Obs. Yes, *Roger*: What can we expect but Roguery from the Man of Sin, and Son of Perdition? And what Faithfulness can we expect from such Help-mates, as value themselves? Chiefly upon being his most obedient Sons, and are charg'd with Oppressions as great as those the *French* King is guilty of; and yet, we and they fight against him, for oppressing his Neighbours. If there be *Achans* in our Camp, *Roger*, we must expect to fly before our Enemies.

Country-m. What do you mean by *Achans*, Master?

Obs. I thought, *Roger*, you would not, after so many Reproofs, have again ask'd the Meaning of any Thing!

Country-m. I must understand what you say, or I must be silent: I an't a Schollard, Master, like you.

Obs. *Roger*, don't you know the *Hungarians* have cry'd aloud to all the World, that there was a Rape committed upon their Liberties and Religion? Have not the Protestants in *Silesia*, in the *Palatinate*, and elsewhere, done the like? and was it not some of our Help-mates that committed those Rapes? Did none of our Ministers tell plainly who it was that hinder'd their Mediations taking Effect, for having the *Hungarians* restor'd to their Liberty? Have you heard so many, and such loud Complaints of People, whose Liberties have been took from them by Violence, and do you still ask me what I mean by *Achans* in the Camp?

Country-m. Now, Master, *Roger* begins to understand you. A dull Schollard must ask Questions, else he must e'en be a Dunce to the End of the Chapter. I must therefore ask you another Question, Master; and that is, How shall we get rid of those *Achans*?

Obs. Why, *Roger*, *De Foe*'s *Nothing-doing-Prince*, the King of *Sweden*, has put us in a Way to do it, if we will follow his Example. He has oblig'd the Papists to restore the Protestants of *Silesia* to their Churches and Liberties, that were taken from them contrary to the Treaty of *Westphalia*; and the King of *Prussia* made the Elector *Palatine come to a Temper*, with

with Relation to his Proteſtant Subjects. I know no Cauſe, *Roger*, why other Proteſtant Princes and States, ſhould not be as zealous for their Religion, as they. *England* was never more bleſs'd, nor made a greater Figure in the World, than when ſhe ſet up in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, as the common Guardian of oppreſs'd Proteſtants: She deliver'd the *Dutch* from the *Spaniſh* Papiſts, and the *Scotch* from the *French* Papiſts, and ſettl'd both thoſe Countries upon the Foot of their ancient Conſtitution and Liberties; by which ſhe ſecur'd her ſelf of the inviolable Friendſhip and Amity of her Neighbours; and this put her in a Condition to give Laws to her Enemies Abroad. For my Part, *Roger*, I can ſee no Reaſon why we ſhould ſpend our Blood and Treaſure for thoſe that have ſo little Complaiſance for us, as at our Requeſt, not to reſtore our Proteſtant Brethren to their Liberty and Religion. Had the Money and Blood that have been ſpent in continuing the War againſt the *Hungarians*, been made uſe of againſt the Common Enemy, this Campaign might in all Probability have been as glorious as the laſt; and had the Troops that were ſent to reduce, or rather to take Poſſeſſion of *Naples*, been imploy'd to beſiege *Toulon*, while the Duke of *Savoy* and Prince *Eugene* had fac'd the Enemy in the Field, we ſhould not perhaps have met with ſuch a mortifying Diſappointment. But I hope, *Roger*, when the Parliament meets, they will inquire into thoſe Things, and take Care that *England* ſhall not always ſpend her Money and Labour in Vain, to help thoſe that will not help themſelves.

Country-m. I hope ſo too, Maſter; and if you will give me Leave to offer my Country-Verdict, I fancy, that if the Emperor would follow the Example of the brave Duke of *Savoy*, and declare the Pope's Excommunication null, (and if the old He-Whore will ſtill be obſtinate) order his Troops in *Naples* to make a Viſit to the Seat of the Beaſt, and ſinge it a little with Bombs and Grenadoes; I am o' th' Mind, Maſter, we might ſo drain the Pope's Cup of Vornication, that he would not have Liquor enough left in it to vuddle the Kings and Princes of the Earth, and make them loſe their Senſes any more.

Obſ. You are much in the Right, *Roger*: Some of the Emperor's Predeceſſors would have improv'd ſuch an Opportunity, and thought themſelves ne'er a Whit the worſe *Roman* Catholicks. The Emperor, *Frederick* the II. chas'd Pope *Celeſtine* out of *Italy* into *France*; and the Emperor, *Charles* the V's Troops took and ſack'd *Rome*, without Regard to the Pope; and the Emperor's Subjects, the *Spaniards*, tho' violent Papiſts, were as forward in this Work, as his other Subjects the Proteſtant *Germans*: And I am ſure, the preſent Emperor, and his Brother King *Charles*, have met with as much Provocation from the preſent Pope, as their Anceſtor *Charles* the V. met with from the then Pope: But if he will ſtill continue the Pope's moſt obedient Son, when he diſcovers himſelf to be ſuch an unnatural Father, that he proſecutes his Generals with Excommunication, and forces his Subjects to take down the Arms of *Auſtria* from over their Gates, when he allow'd *Spaniards* of the *French* Faction, to ſet up thoſe of the Houſe of *Bourbon*; I can't tell what to ſay to it: But this I know, that let others worſhip the Pope, and kiſs his ſtinking Toe as often as they pleaſe, the Proteſtant Allies are under no Obligation to do ſo; but have it in their Power by their Fleets, to make Anti-Chriſt, and his new Allies, if they will diſturb the Confederacy by a Counter-Alliance, ſmart for it, and give them Powder and Ball enough to ſeaſon their *Chriſtmas*-Pies ſo high, as they may choak them.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter; had *Roger* his Will, he would cram Iron-dumplings down the Throat of the *Romiſh* High-Prieſt; and inſtead of ſending him a Hackney from the Kingdom of *Naples*, would ſend him a Halter. O how I would towel thoſe cut-throat Prieſts, that were for murdering the *Germans*! I would tack thoſe tacking Prieſts, Maſter, with my Pitchfork, 'till they ſhould tack no more.

Obſ. Is there no News from *Spain*, *Roger*?

Country-m. Yes, Maſter, but not good. The *French* are ſtill taking Towns, and getting Ground, and the Earl of *Galloway* is forc'd to retire before them. This vexes me, Maſter: I hop'd to have had Part of the Gold and Money of the *Spaniſh-Weſt-Indies*, to help pay Taxes: But, Maſter, the *French* get it all, and we *Engliſh*-men get none. No Wonder then, that *Roger* ſhould be out of Humour.

Obſ. You know, *Roger*, I was always for ſending a Squadron to the *Weſt Indies*, to ſecure our own Trade there, annoy the Enemy, and intercept their Plate-Ships. The brave Earl of *Peterborough* was once to have gone upon ſome ſuch Expedition, but how it came that he did not, and whence it came to paſs, that his ſurprizing Succeſs in *Spain* was not ſeconded, is the Buſineſs of our Superiors to inquire. That Noble Lord, is beſt able to give an Account of the Obſtacles he met with, and what may be moſt proper for retrieving our Affairs in *Spain*; and I know his Lordſhip is ſo good an *Engliſh*-man, that he will at all Times be ready to do his Country Juſtice. In the mean Time, *Roger*, I hope that the Reinforcements which are brought on Board our Fleet to King *Charles*, and the 7000 *Palatines*, which the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* are ſending him from *Italy*, will, with the Army he has already, change the Face of his Affairs for the better. But we muſt be poſitive in nothing, *Roger*; God knows beſt what he has to do: Did we truſt more in him, and leſs in the Arm of Fleſh, it would go better with us. So, *Roger*, good Night.

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‡‡‡ The *Title*, *Preface*, and *Index* to the Fifth Volume of the *Obſervator*, are to be had at *B. Bragge*'s, at the *Raven* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*.

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